



Office for Health  
Improvement  
& Disparities

# Housing LIN Summit 2021

## Improving the practice of achieving wellbeing and reducing disparities

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Healthy Places and Communities

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# Mission of the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities

“It is entirely possible to raise the health outcomes of the least healthy closer to the outcomes of the healthiest” – Addressing health inequalities

“We can’t level up economically without levelling up in health, it’s equally true that we can’t tackle health disparities without tackling wider disparities too” - Addressing health in spatial disparities

“I want OHID to work with whoever it takes – from the NHS to industry, life sciences to academia – to tackle health inequalities and improve access to health services particularly the services that detect and act on health conditions as early as possible.” – Ways of working and making health everyone’s business

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, Blackpool speech on **The hidden costs of COVID-19: the social backlog**, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021

# Addressing the geography of ill health disparities

- More important now given Levelling Up agenda and the Adult Social Care White Paper.

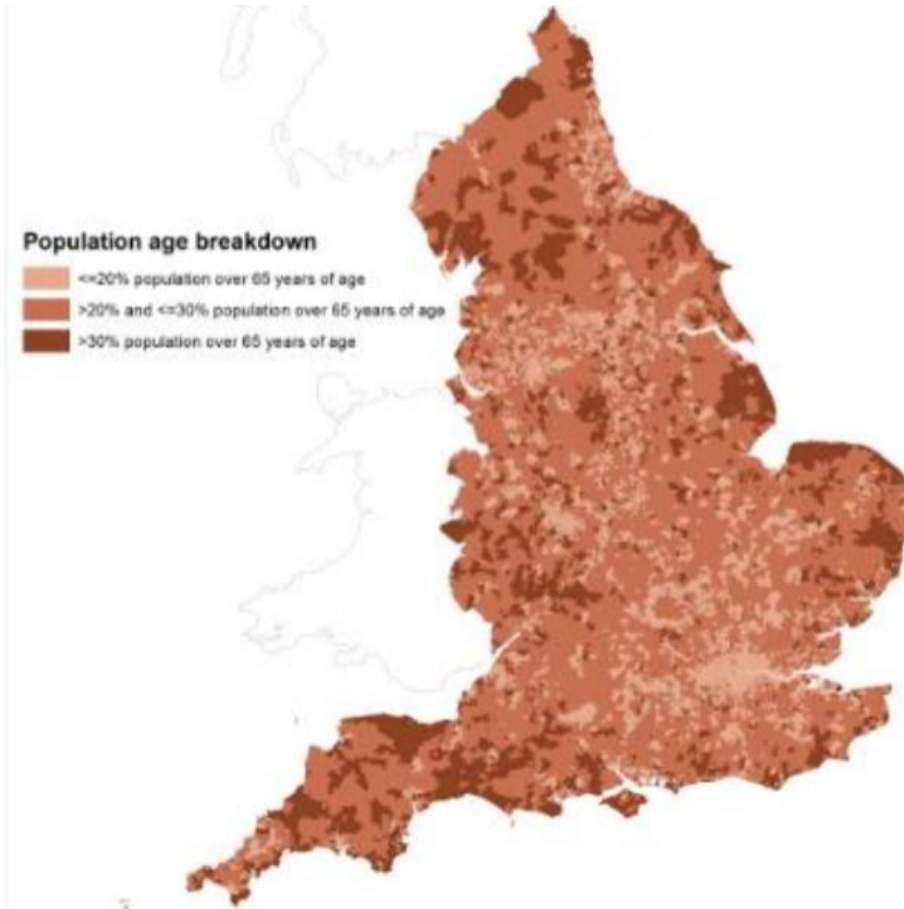
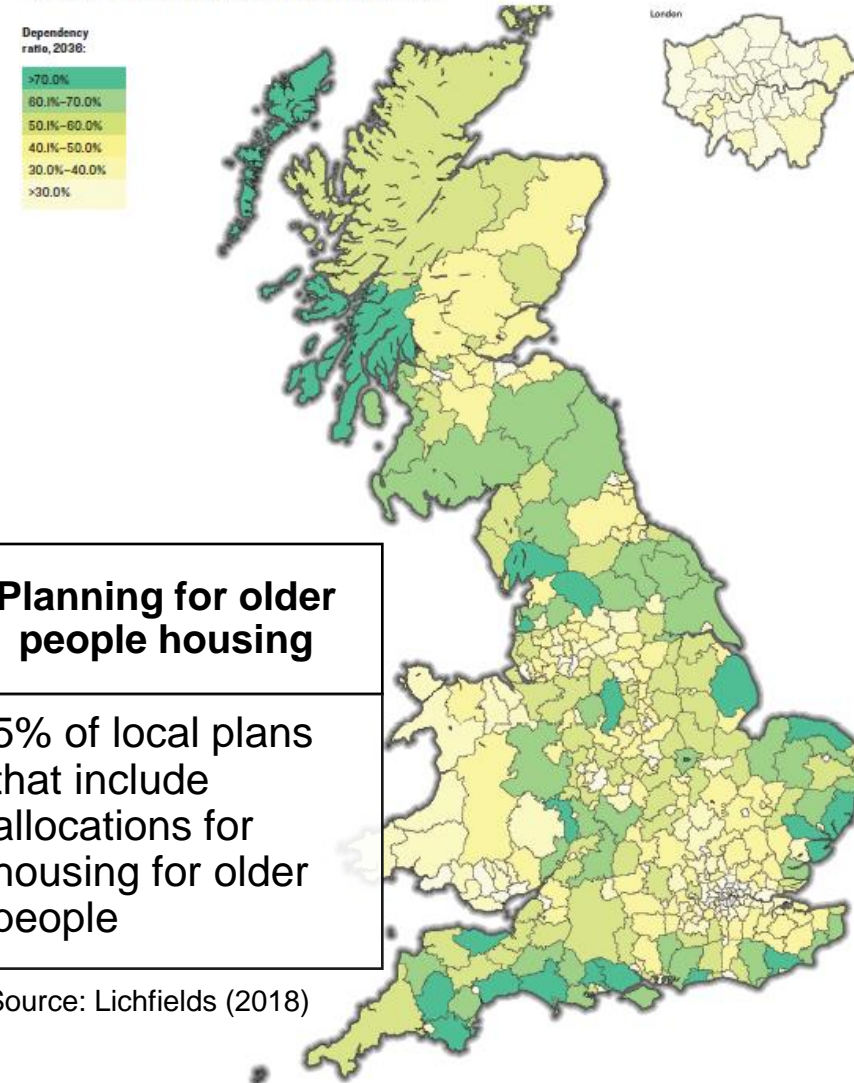


Figure 3: Forecasted dependency ratios by local authority by 2036



## Planning for older people housing

- 5% of local plans that include allocations for housing for older people

Source: Lichfields (2018)

**BY 2036**

there will be over four people aged over 65 for every 10 people between 16 and 64

# Disparities in the planning and development systems

## Local planning policies linked to health needs<sup>1</sup>

(% of Local Planning Authorities)

- **England - 27%**
- North East – **25%**
- West Mids - **20%**
- South East - **8%**
- London – **64%**

## Local planning policies linked to health strategies<sup>1</sup>

- **England - 26%**
- North East – **8%**
- West Mids - **20%**
- South East - **9%**
- London – **58%**

## Housing design quality (% Good-Very Good)<sup>2</sup>

- England – 26%
- North East – **18%**
- North West - **21%**
- South East - **38%**
- London - **50%**

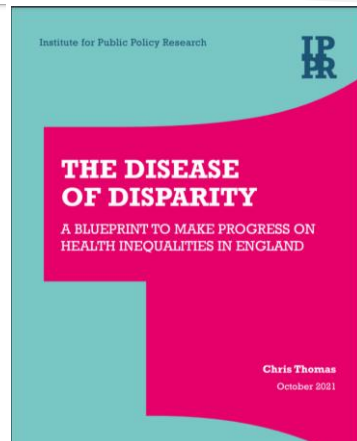
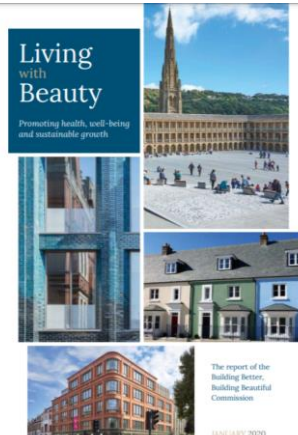
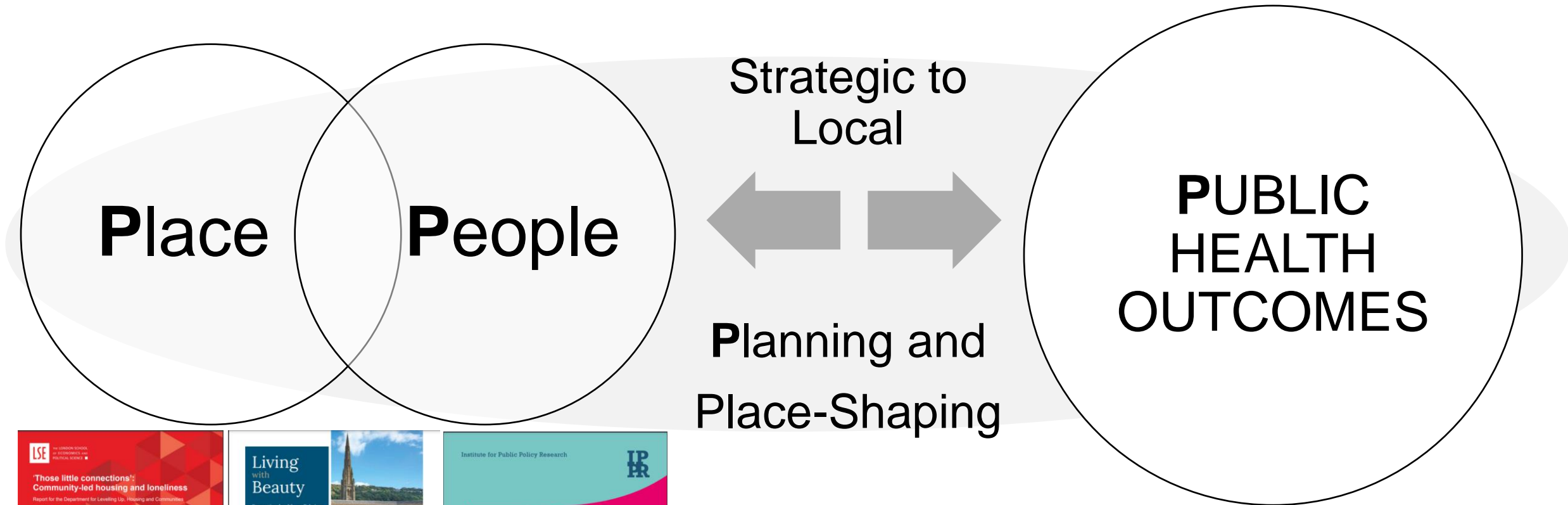
## Financial contributions secured from developers annually<sup>3</sup>

(2018/19)

- **England - £7bn**
- North East – 3%
- West Mids - 6%
- South East- 25%
- London – 28%

Sources: <sup>1</sup>Town and Country Planning Association, (2019), The State of the Union; <sup>2</sup> Place Alliance (2020), A housing design audit for England; <sup>3</sup> MHCLG, (2020), The Incidence, Value and Delivery of Planning Obligations and Community Infrastructure Levy in England in 2018-19

# 4 Ps – Planning for a healthier and more equitable future





# Effect = vulnerable people living in poorer quality housing

- **What contributing role can housing play in supporting strategic and local actions to address housing needs of those in need?**
- Change of use of ground floor office space to form eight studio flats and one two bedroom flat for rented accommodation use. Granted 2016.
- Prior Approval application for Permitted Development Rights so only Transport and Highways, Flood Risk, and Contamination Risks are allowed to be considered.
- Overall building is now used by a neighbourhood council for Emergency Temporary Accommodation.



# Effect = supported and care housing not sufficiently delivered where they may be needed

- **How should/ can local actions better support specialist/ care housing scheme when meeting identified local need?**
- Planning proposal for a care community of 100 homes on part of a former golf course in Nottinghamshire.
- It already has outline planning consent (previously granted on appeal in 2017).
- The Planning Inspector attached great weight to the development of 100 affordable homes for the care sector but the adverse effects on the living conditions of neighbouring residents significantly outweighed these benefits.
- This appeal was dismissed (August 2021).





# How can the 4 Ps be translated to practice?



Sources: PHE, (2017), [Spatial planning and health: an evidence resource for designing and planning healthier places](#); NHS England, (2019), [Healthy New Towns. Putting Health into Place](#)



# OHID Healthy Places and Communities

**Healthy Places Framework  
(work in progress)**

**Integrated Care Systems Deep  
Dive (work in progress)**



**Other  
Govt  
Depts &  
agencies**

**Expert  
stakes**

**Industry  
and  
private  
sectors**

**Local  
systems**

## Spatial Planning

Getting Research into  
Practice and local  
systems support

Health (in) Impact  
Assessment in  
Planning

Planning and Obesity

Planning Reforms

Oxford-Cambridge Arc  
Spatial Framework

Design and Health

## Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

Support UKHSA statutory  
responses on health  
protection (and health and  
wellbeing) aspects

Development of health in  
EIA practice

Liaison with National  
Highways / consultants

Guidance and support  
to local authorities

Evidence review –  
mental health

## Housing (new and existing)

Homes and health  
guidance and  
publications

Housing standards  
and regulation

High impact  
interventions review  
publication

Housing and Health  
MoU

## Transport and active travel

DfT cycling and  
walking delivery  
board

Support  
development of  
Active Travel  
England

Support national cycling  
and walking  
infrastructure, social  
prescribing programme

Support for Road  
Safety Strategy

## Natural Environment

Improving Access to  
the Outdoors (ATTO)  
Standard evaluation  
framework and  
metrics

Green Social  
Prescribing test and  
learn programme

Supporting Defra and  
Natural England

Green Infrastructure  
Standards

## Comms, Events, Support & Collaborations

Disseminating and  
writing for external  
publications

Webinars: Capacity-  
Building: Training &  
Development

Visibility at external  
events and meetings

Healthy Places  
Knowledge Hub



# Future of Public Health Spatial Planning in Practice



1. Provide greater clarity (tangible) about what physical and mental health and wellbeing means in the environment and planning (**Healthy Places Framework**).
2. Increase the coverage of and health-proofing policies so they improve quality of decisions and opportunities to secure developer contributions. (**Health Net Gain**)
3. Support local systems to develop policies and decisions for those people/ areas who needs the planning system the most. (**Health (in) Impact Assessment, and Local Design Code/ Guide**)
4. Better understand spatial inequalities through national data and evidence base.
5. Identify public health implications of emerging trends through research.
6. Mature and sustain multi-disciplinary and cross-sector working relationships at national and local levels.
7. Build a competent and sustainable Spatial Planning and Public Health workforce (see [Health and Wellbeing in Planning Network](#)).



# Further information

Sign up to Knowledge Hub: Healthy Places

<https://khub.net/group/healthypeoplehealthyplaces>

email [healthyplaces@phe.gov.uk](mailto:healthyplaces@phe.gov.uk)

Check out the Health and Wellbeing in Planning Network

<https://healthinplanning.wordpress.com>



HEALTH & WELLBEING in PLANNING



# Barriers to improving public health in practice

91%

- Existing evidence is not translatable to practice at the local level

89%

- Lack of resource and capacity at local authority level

85%

- Communication and cultural gap between planners and public health professionals

81%

- Lack of monitoring and evaluation of planning decisions

79%

- Disconnect between government agencies responsible for providing leadership on spatial planning and health

Source: Ige et al, (2020), Exploring the views of planners and public health practitioners on integrating health evidence into spatial planning in England: a mixed-methods study, *Journal of Public Health*

Journal of Public Health | pp. 1–9 | doi:10.1093/jpubmed/ckaa005

## Exploring the views of planners and public health practitioners on integrating health evidence into spatial planning in England: a mixed-methods study

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### ABSTRACT

**Background** This study explored barriers and facilitators to integrating health evidence into spatial planning at local authority levels and examined the awareness and use of the Public Health England 'Spatial Planning for Health' resource.

**Methods** A sequential exploratory mixed-methods design utilized in-depth semi-structured interviews followed by an online survey of public health, planning and other built environment professionals in England.

**Results** Views from 19 individuals and 162 survey responses revealed high awareness and use of the Spatial Planning for Health resource, although public health professionals reported greater awareness and use than other professionals. Key barriers to evidence implementation included differences in interpretation and the use of 'evidence' between public health and planning professionals, lack of practical evidence to apply locally and lack of resource and staff capacity in local authorities. Key facilitators included integrating health into the design of local plans, articulating wider benefits to multiple stakeholders and simplifying presenting evidence (regarding language and accessibility).

**Conclusion** The Spatial Planning for Health resource is a useful resource at local authority level. Further work is needed to maximize its use by built environment professionals. Public health teams need support, capacity and skills to ensure that local health and well-being priorities are integrated into local planning documents and decisions.

**Keywords** places, planning, public health

### Introduction

It is widely recognized that the built environment can positively impact on population health and well-being.<sup>1,2</sup> Built environment and public health professionals share a historically important role in facilitating the design of healthy spaces.<sup>3,4</sup> However, despite the long and well-known history between planning and health in the UK, the two disciplines are, at present, not sufficiently integrated at local levels. There have been repeated calls for better synergy between planning and public health teams to enable the delivery of healthy places.<sup>3,5–7</sup>

The England National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>8</sup> recognizes the unique role of spatial planning in improving community health and well-being and calls for stronger

partnerships between planning authorities and public health specialists in assessing the health needs of a community and addressing health inequalities.<sup>9</sup> Health and well-being considerations should begin with the planning process and should not be an afterthought.<sup>9</sup> One of the recent developments that

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# Actions to improve environmental quality and public health outcomes – systems and workforce

## Health in national and local design codes and guides

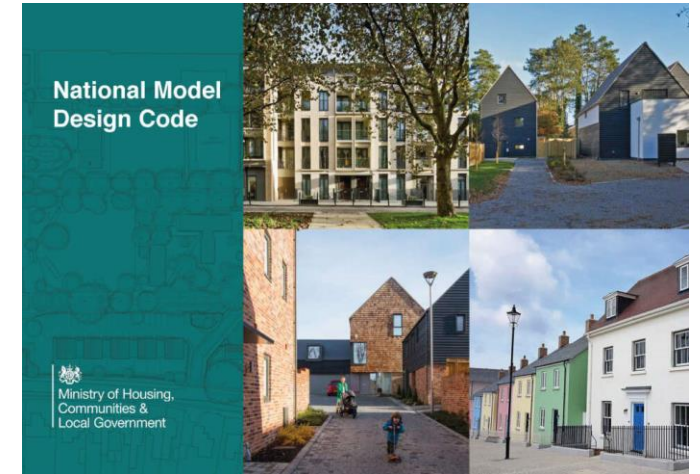
- Local authorities required to produce a Design Code with health-promoting themes including Nature, Movement, Homes and Buildings.

## Health in environmental assessments, health impact assessments/ health equity assessment tool (HEAT)

- Using impact assessment to embed public health outcomes during the process of creating Plans and Projects.

## Capacity and capability building of the workforce

- Aligning skills and upskilling Planners, Public Health Professionals, Environmental Health Officers, Architects, Urban Designers, Building Engineers, and Environmental Assessment Practitioners.
- See [PHE Case study: Town planning and public health: shared competencies](#)



# Actions to improve environmental quality and public health outcomes – initiatives and research

## National Health Service (NHS) Healthy New Towns 2016-19

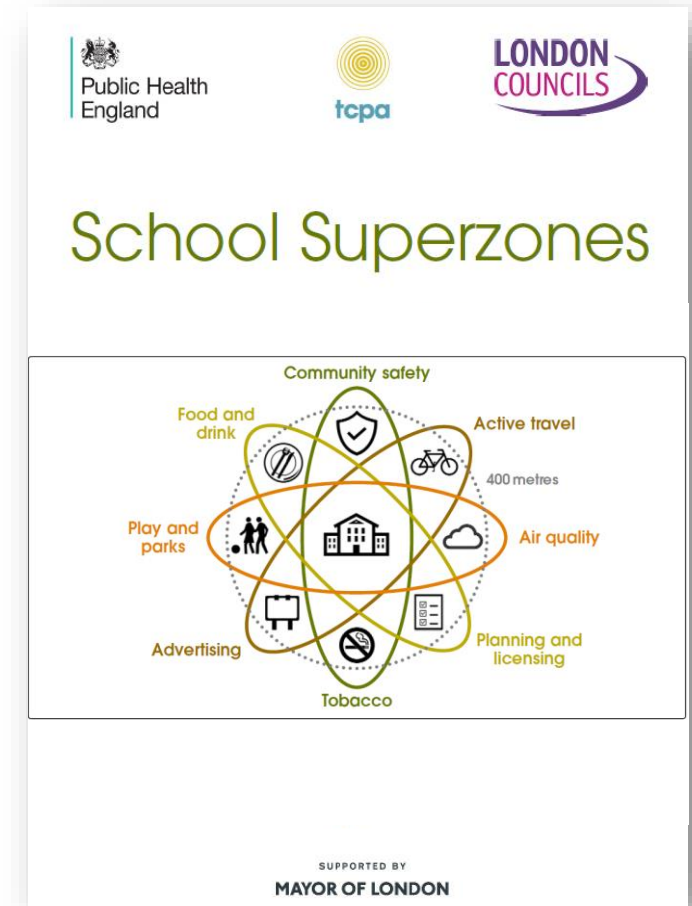
- NHS taking a lead in its 5-Year Forward View Strategy.
- Whole place approach to improving population health and healthcare planning through urban development, digital and community activation projects.
- 10 Demonstrator Sites testing interventions.

## London School Superzones 2018-19

- Health devolution between Mayor of London and Government
- Superzones utilise local authority powers and place-shaping potential to address health and environmental inequalities around schools in areas of deprivation.

## **Place/ environment-based research**

- NIHR on housing, food environment and planning
- Teesside Uni on temporary COVID planning regs for takeaways



# Book - Public Health Spatial Planning in Practice: Improving Health and Wellbeing

Authors: Michael Chang, Liz Green and Carl Petrokofsky with additional practical case study contributors

- Evidence case for action
- Policy and professional case for action
- State of Planning for Health Union
- Health in All Policies
- Health Impact Assessment in Planning
- Health in other Impact Assessments
- Health and wellbeing in planning policy and decisions
- Rise of the Public Health Spatial Planning Practitioner
- Value and contributions from development for health gain
- Horizon scanning

Expected Publication in Autumn 2022, Policy Press